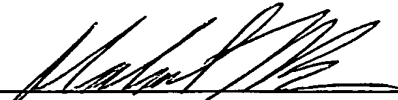


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November 13, 1998



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Attorney for Applicants

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Sir:

This is a request for an extension of time for filing a Reply Brief of one month (to and including December 14, 1998) under 37 CFR 1.136(b) in this pending application. An extension of time is not available in this application under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a); however, additional time to respond may still be granted under the patent statute. No petition fee is required. The reason for requesting the extension of time is as follows: Applicants' counsel most familiar with the issues on appeal is on maternity leave.

Respectfully submitted,

**MARSHALL, O'TOOLE, GERSTEIN,
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By

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November 13, 1998